

## HALF-EMPTY, HALF-FULL

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the October 5, 2003, an editorial from the Omaha World-Herald, which is entitled "Half-empty, half-full." As the editorial correctly notes, Iraq remains a country "full of positive potential but also fraught with danger."

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 5, 2003]

## HALF-EMPTY, HALF-FULL

Gene Taylor, a Democratic U.S. representative from Mississippi, recently returned from a trip to Baghdad. He struck the right note when he said the situation in Iraq "is neither going as well as the administration says it's going nor as badly as the media say it is going."

Indeed, the situation is decidedly mixed. That hasn't stopped diehard partisans on either side from trying their best to highlight only one facet of the matter, however.

The catalog of challenges is well known. Saddam Hussein loyalists and outside terrorists have succeeded, for the time being, in rattling people's nerves about security. Enemies of the U.S. campaign have assassinated one member of Iraq's Governing Council and murdered a Shiite cleric who advocated tolerance for the American presence. They have used pinprick attacks to kill and would U.S. soldiers at a slow but relatively steady rate that has diminished support for the Iraq operations among many Americans.

Meanwhile, saboteurs continue to hobble the electrical grid and oil-pipe network. Large numbers of Iraqis remain without jobs. Mafia-style gangs have become a serious concern in Baghdad. Ethnic tensions simmer among Iraq's Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, sometimes erupting violence.

The United States has come up short, so far, in gaining financial assistance from foreign governments. And a variety of uncertainties beset the ambitious endeavor to move Iraq's political system toward a constitutional republic.

And yet, much is going right. A vivid description of the progress came in an opinion essay written by Julie Flint, a veteran Middle East journalist, for a Lebanese newspaper. Media depictions of Iraq as trapped in bottomless turmoil are wrong, she argued:

"Outside Baghdad, in the Shiite south, the mood was overwhelmingly upbeat. In Basra, ordinary people gave the thumbs-up at the mere sight of a Briton. . . . In Amara, streets were buzzing well after midnight. . . . Shops are overflowing with imported goods; food prices are lower than they were during Saddam's last years. Approximately 85 percent of primary and secondary schools have reopened. . . . All Iraqi cities and 85 percent of its smaller towns have fully functioning municipalities."

Similarly, Pamela Harris, a United Press International writer praised for her wartime reporting, noted in a recent good news/bad news analysis how she had seen "happy children running out to greet Marines when they walk through downtown Hillah without body armor or rifles because they have worked long and hard to win the trust of the townspeople, and they have succeeded."

USA Today recently noted that, thanks to U.S. policy that as tapped \$1.7 billion in Iraqi assets frozen during the Gulf War of 1991, government workers in Iraq have received major pay increases. The article described a police officer whose monthly pay has gone from \$25 before the war to \$275 now.

This leap in the purchasing power of many Iraqis, combined with a tariff-free influx of imported products, has spurred a dramatic flurry of consumer spending, not least on major items such as refrigerators and ovens. (The average price for home appliances has fallen by 41 percent from prewar levels)

Iraq, in short, is in the middle of a momentous time of transition—full of positive potential but also fraught with danger.

As the debate rages over whether the glass is half-empty or half-full, one thing is certain: The United States cannot cut and run. Together with the Iraqi people and whatever support can be mustered from the international community, we will have to see this through—without minimizing how difficult the task will be.

## TRIBUTE TO DAVIS HELBERG

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Davis Helberg's leadership with the Northeast-Midwest Institute. Davis has been an Institute director for the past eight years and ably led the board's nominations committee. With his effortless management style, he ensured that the Institute balanced the region's needs for economic vitality and environmental quality. But this should surprise no one.

If there is one word I could use to describe Davis, it is "passionate." A native Minnesotan who grew up on a family farm in a small Finnish community where hard work was considered a hometown value, Davis has been a passionate worker and leader throughout his varied careers. Living near Lake Superior, it's not surprising that in 1959, at the age of 17, Davis worked his first paying job as a deckhand on a lake steamer. After a few years as a newspaper reporter, he returned to his maritime career, working as a vessel agency employee, port public relations director, president of a stevedoring company and, until his retirement earlier this year, Executive Director of the Seaway Port Authority of Duluth. For more than forty years, Davis has tirelessly served Duluth, the broader Great Lakes community, the national maritime industry, and the northeast and midwest States. It is said that Davis Helberg's name is synonymous with the Great Lakes maritime industry in many national and international circles. I couldn't agree more. Might I add that I believe he is the most passionate Finn I have ever met.

I have known Davis for almost three decades. During that time, I have been the recipient of much of his passionate maritime advocacy. But his many accomplishments are attributable to more than just passion. Davis succeeded in his many endeavors because of solid leadership, vast knowledge, unparalleled experience and energetic dedication, not to mention his legendary storytelling ability. He served 24 years as executive director of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority—the longest serving in the Great Lakes, and he has been a frequent chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities. After eight years, his invaluable service at the Northeast Midwest Institute will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I was a founder of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition. The

Coalition and the Institute long have provided valuable analysis on an array of economic and environmental issues. They have worked hard to ensure bipartisan cooperation among Midwestern and Northeastern lawmakers. Davis Helberg, with his unique talents and unwavering passion, has improved that tradition. He made a difference. His contributions to the Northeast-Midwest Institute are much appreciated.

**PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FROM PAYING SUBSISTENCE CHARGES WHILE HOSPITALIZED**

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strongest possible support for H.R. 2998, and urge my colleagues to join me in passing this important legislation.

I am extremely pleased that the leadership has brought this bill to the floor today, but I am thoroughly confused as to why the Department of Defense has even made this legislation necessary. It is absolutely mind-boggling that they charge military personnel for meals while they are hospitalized with injuries suffered while in combat or training.

Mr. Speaker, on September 24 we passed the conference report for the FY04 Defense Appropriations bill, which provided appropriations for the DoD totaling \$368 billion dollars. This figure marked an increase of approximately \$13 billion for the DoD. I voted in support of this conference report because I felt that it provided important funding for our troops and for the war on terrorism, but I cannot believe that the DoD, with around \$355 billion in funds for FY03, could possibly charge these men and women for the meals they eat while they recover from injuries. This is unconscionable, and I thank Mr. YOUNG for introducing his legislation to remedy this outrage.

I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I will most certainly be voting in support of its passage. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of our troops and to correct this ridiculous situation.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS INSURANCE FAIRNESS ACT**

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Armenian Victims Insurance Fairness Act"—legislation to provide states with the authority to assist survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

At the end of the 19th century, major American and European insurance companies began expanding their operations into the Ottoman Empire and thousands of Armenians in the area purchased life insurance policies as a form of savings and investment for the

future. By 1915, it is reported that one French-based company had sold more than 11,000 policies in the area. Almost all of these policyholders were massacred when a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing was launched, killing more than 1.5 million Armenians.

Over eighty years later, insurance companies still have not paid the benefits due on the thousands of policies sold. Some families have tried for years to obtain owed benefits, but insurance companies have demanded that the survivors produce non-existent documents, such as death certificates.

In order to provide victims with the justice they deserve, California enacted legislation to assist both Armenian victims and Holocaust victims in recovering outstanding insurance claims. In addition to providing a right of action for claims arising out of such policies, California enacted an additional law requiring insurance companies doing business in their state to disclose information about Holocaust-era insurance policies. A similar requirement was omitted from the Armenian victims legislation because of a pending Supreme Court challenge of the Holocaust disclosure law.

In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court in *AIA v. Garamendi* recently struck down the California disclosure law, citing Administration efforts to settle Holocaust insurance claims and stating that "Congress has done nothing to express disapproval of the President's policy [with respect to settling such claims and preempting state efforts in this area]."

Although no similar Administration efforts have interfered with the settlement of Armenian claims, it is important for Congress to speak clearly on this issue. Private settlement negotiations between insurance companies and families have been slow with no final resolutions reached to date. Families should not have to wait any longer for disclosure of policyholder lists.

I have introduced two pieces of legislation to specifically allow states to collect insurance information for victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust. The Armenian Victims Insurance Fairness Act specifically provides states with the authority to pass disclosure laws related to insurance policies in effect at any time between 1875 and 1923 that were issued to persons domiciled in the Ottoman Empire, such as Armenians, Greeks, and Assyrians.

The Armenian Victims Insurance Fairness Act, and my companion legislation the Holocaust Victims Insurance Fairness Act (H.R. 3129), specifically provide states with the authority to pass policyholder disclosure laws and explicitly express Congressional disapproval of any Executive branch policy or agreement that preempts State efforts in this area. Please join me in this effort to finally provide justice to those who have been denied it for so long.

#### RECOGNIZING PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of recognizing Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. This resolution

comes at a fitting time for me and other Members and staff in the House. I recently lost a good friend and former aide, Barry Beringer, to pancreatic cancer.

Barry was a remarkable man, a warm friend and a consummate counsel. His love of history permeated his work as a Committee General Counsel. His warmth and gently inclusive approach to difficult negotiations and situations made him a friend to all, even to those who may have disagreed with him. His pure motives earned him universal respect and admiration from his friends and colleagues.

Barry served as my General Counsel during my tenure as Chairman of the House Science Committee. His sage advice, thoughtful perspective, and his respect for the history of the institution guided many a decision. His counsel was invaluable and will be missed greatly not only by me but by all who worked with him and around him. His warm humor and collegial approach to everything is unique in this institution . . . and will be missed.

In addition to being a loving husband and father, Barry was a loving human being who left us all richer for having known and worked with him.

Congressman Platts introduced this important resolution to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. Unfortunately, no one knows the exact causes of pancreatic cancer. Doctors are rarely able to explain why one person gets pancreatic cancer and another does not. I am pleased that the House is acknowledging this deadly disease and raising awareness of pancreatic cancer so others may not suffer the same fate as my friend Barry.

#### HONORING TYLER MATTHEW PINCHOT

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tyler Matthew Pinchot, a 23-year veteran of the Buena Park Police Department.

Tyler was raised in my district in the city of Garden Grove and he was a graduate of Golden West College's police program in 1979.

He was the only Buena Park police officer to win the Officer of the Year Award two years in a row in 1991 and 1992.

When not on duty protecting citizens, he volunteered his time for his community. He was a Special Weapons and Tactics team member, station house Santa Claus and a tactical officer at Fullerton College's police reserve academy.

Sadly, on June 13 Tyler was trying to catch up to a traffic violator when a car struck his motorcycle. He later died as a result of his injuries.

Tyler was a great citizen. He was a man who devoted himself to his community. His hard work and dedication will serve as an inspiration to others.

#### RECOGNIZING CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Citizens Financial Group on being recognized with both the "Seven Seals" and "Pro Patria" awards.

In response to the U.S. military actions in Iraq, this Rhode Island business implemented an enhanced military leave policy in February of 2003 that included matched pay, continuance of insurance coverage, job guarantee upon return, and support to employees affected by a family member's call to duty. Due to this comprehensive policy, the Office of the Secretary of Defense awarded Citizens the New Hampshire Committee for the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve "Seven Seals" award, and the Rhode Island Guard and Reserve gave the company its "Pro Patria" award. The "Pro Patria" award honors the most outstanding employer of reservists.

Citizens Financial Group should be commended for the work they have done to help ensure an employee will not undergo financial or emotional hardships after he or she is called upon to protect our country. It is my hope that other businesses will follow in these noble steps to show much-deserved gratitude for members of the National Guard and Reserves.

I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Citizens Financial Group on its achievements.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as cochairmen of the Congressional Native American Caucus, my colleague Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH and I would like to ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation on the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. This landmark legislation settled the Tribes' land claim and granted federal recognition to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

Mr. Speaker, for thousands of years, this land has been home to the Mashantucket Pequots and their ancestors. Centuries before the arrival of Columbus, the Pequots had a sophisticated understanding of their land, which stretched across present-day South-eastern Connecticut.

Like other northeastern Tribes, the Pequots had developed a rich and complex culture. Their language, medicine, rituals, horticulture, trade, government, and social organization defined what it meant to be a Pequot. Within two decades of contact with the white settlers, smallpox and other diseases killed more than half of the Pequots and devastated the social structure of those who survived. Then, in 1637, the settlers in colonial Massachusetts